

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8, with the following:

The centerpiece of this invention is ~~clusters of users who have similar tastes~~. Clusters include taste signatures, which represent the tastes of a cluster. Users are enabled to find ~~cluster~~ clusters that match their tastes, and artists are enabled to find the clusters where the users are who are likely to be interested in their work. Clusters thus serve as hubs of activity for particular tastes; in most embodiments ratings of items of interest to those tastes can be viewed, and various embodiments may include various means for inter-user communication so that communities of people with similar tastes are formed.

Please amend the specification by inserting the following three paragraphs, to be inserted consecutively at page 2, after line 17:

It should be noted that the body of the specification makes clear that the term "cluster" is used in two distinct ways in this patent application. In the first use, it is an abstract concept which might be called a "taste-identification cluster." It is a data structure which represents certain tastes. It contains a "taste signature." It can be created by human beings or automatically by a software process. If a human being creates it, it will have an associated human "cluster initiator." It may have human "members" which "join" it. The taste signature may contain "items" or "works" which are entities such as songs that are of interest to humans.

The second use is the more traditional; for instance we cluster items together.

The usage will be clear from context.

Replace the paragraph beginning page 13, line 24 as follows:

When a users user wants to make use of the system, he usually does so by finding clusters of taste similar to theirs and, in preferred embodiments, with other positive characteristics.

Replace the paragraph beginning page 24 line 15 as follows:

~~Preferred~~ In preferred embodiments, information is not given to the artist that will enable him to choose reviewers who only review highly. For instance, a preferred embodiment only enables artists access to each reviewer's reliability data and cluster membership. Artists will then be motivated to pick reliable reviewers, as compared to reviewers who often disagree with the majority, but they will not have a means to predict reviewers who only rate highly. Of course, in such an embodiment, an identifier for a reviewer that would enable the artist to associate him or her with particular displayed reviews would not be made available.

Insert a blank line at page 24 line 15 indicating the break between paragraphs.